

STAFFORD FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

Stafford Public Schools ~ 153 West Stafford Road ~ Stafford Springs, CT 06076

Phone (860) 684-6927 ~ Fax (860) 684-0328

Recently the Family Resource Center budget was projected to be reduced by 50% at the State Department of Education level and the potential for further cuts or possible total elimination of this grant may be considered.

We are asking that if your family was at any time or is currently enrolled in any FRC programs: Learn & Play Groups, School Age Child Care, Parents as Teachers Program, any of our Parenting Education Workshops, Family Fun Nights, or have received services or referrals from the Family Resource Center, that you please write a statement/story about what Stafford Family Resource Center means to you and your family.

Name: Stefan Brazalovich

Address: 317 old Springfield road, Stafford Springs, CT 06076

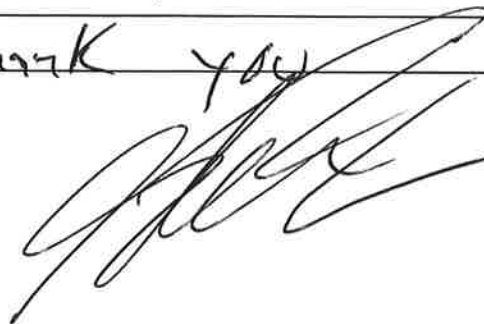
Telephone #: 860-922-8279

Email Address: SBrazalovich@gmail.com

What does the Family Resource Center mean to you and your family?

Family Resource Center means that I, as a single father, can have peace of mind while I can work my scheduled shifts. Other day care / after school programs are crowded, more expensive, and aren't necessarily admitting new children. Also this gives us the option of keeping her at school as opposed to bussing her to and from wherever else, creating more uncertainties and variables which are out of my control. The people that run FRC are wonderful and my daughter loves them. Stability and consistency is extremely important to every child's development and this program ending would be detrimental.

Thank you



01/20/17

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Name: Dolores Hansen
Address: 34 Mayflower Hill Rd
Telephone #: 860 878-8176
Email Address: hansen101@cox.net

What does the Family Resource Center mean to you and your family?

FRC is a wonderful place to bring my grandson to play with other children. He loves it and loves Miss Jackie. It is preparing him for school and gives him the opportunity to play with other children. It has helped him with his social skills. Living in such a rural area there isn't much opportunity for social activities. It would truly be a sad day in Stafford if this program is cut.

Thanks
Dolores Hansen

01/20/17

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Name: Jessica Harvell, LCSW

Address: 35 Handel Rd. Stafford, CT 06076

Telephone #: 860-463-1664

Email Address: harvell6300@cox.net

What does the Family Resource Center mean to you and your family?

Both of my children attended FRC for many years, starting at age 4 + continuing until they transitioned to Stafford Elementary School. They also participated in the FRC Summer program for several summers + enjoyed the many planned activities. Both of my children enjoyed the many art projects that were available to them + my daughter has actually gone on to love art, creating jewelry, using her easel regularly, + excelling in her art class in middle school. My son enjoyed the themed days, including legos, bubbles + pirate activities. He also loved the variety of snacks made available to him. I, as a parent, found the academic assistance to be the most useful piece of FRC. While my son struggled in his classroom with a diagnosis of ADHD, FRC went above + beyond, providing one on one tutoring assistance, homework help + even created a personalized alphabet book to help him remember + recall his alphabet, sound patterns, + vowel sounds. Jack was on a 504 Plan for a mental/physical health disability. However, he has since improved significantly both academically + behaviorally + has graduated out of his 504 plan, which I attribute to his time in FRC.

Sincerely,

Jessica Harvell

01/20/19

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Name: Kerry Small

Address: 99 West Stafford Road

Telephone #: 860-424-1496

Email Address: Smalljohn@cox.net

What does the Family Resource Center mean to you and your family?

FRC is an extremely important program that I need to help me and my family succeed. This program provides after school care for my child, that I can afford being a employed Mother. The type of individual care they provide can not be replaced, as I have had my child at another daycare years ago. This program ensures my child will succeed in learning, fun creative projects, health awareness, fitness, socialization and most importantly Care! If this program was to close, I would not be able to afford the local daycare program, I would have to leave my job.

I hope you consider not to take away this program, this would hurt our community.

Sincerely,

Kerry M. Small

01/20/17

January 27, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I've been a Stafford resident my entire 36 years. It's a wonderful small town full of charm and camaraderie. It of course has its down sides as well. We typically face a budget cut each year if we don't want to face a tax increase. It is an unfortunate fact in many towns across our nation that budgetary cuts tend to come in the form of educational sacrifices. Funding for special educational programs can be a struggle as a side effect of such sacrifices.

I don't think it's much of a surprise for most of our residents with children that this is a reality. Stafford, however, has had an exception for many years. We have had the privilege of an amazing and beneficial Family Resource Program. As a single mom I was often short at the end of each week for extra money to cover anything special that would help to further help in the socialization and educational experiences of my young son. I was fortunate enough to be introduced to the FRC playgroup program by my daycare provider. It was such a blessing! My son could spend time in the morning during the week surrounded by other parents and children who were also enriching their lives with stories and interactive play. The teachers were always incredibly supportive and kind. Their generosity didn't just stop at playgroup either. They were always there to offer helpful advice, information and guidance. It wasn't just a play time. It held true to its name as a family resource!

It has recently come to my attention that this wonderful program is at risk of losing funding. I was so saddened and disappointed by this. It was a wonderful outlet for me as a mom to speak with and receive guidance from the teachers. It also provided a great opportunity for my son to begin the very important process of learning to socialize with the other children in his community. No doubt many of them would be spending time together in the classroom in later years. This was a time for them to learn about and from each other while also learning about compromise, personal space, sharing and kindness.

I have no doubt that the issue of cutting such a program comes down to the above mentioned funding issue. However, as in other times when cuts need to be considered, I would urge you to weigh the real cost of ending such a wonderful and beneficial program in a town where parents and children can benefit so thoroughly from what it has to offer. There is not a day that I don't look back fondly on the time spent and the people we interacted with in the FRC playgroup. Take a moment to realize and truly consider the repercussions of cutting such a resource. And, when doing so, realize that the bottom monetary line does not always represent a true reflection of a programs worth.

Warmest Regards,

Melanie Silliker

Concerned Parent and Resident.

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Name: Kristin Thayer
Address: 24 Prospect St.
Telephone #: (860) 402-7486
Email Address: KGGMT@COX.NET

What does the Family Resource Center mean to you and your family?

The Family Resource Center in Stafford was an invaluable resource to my family when our children were little. We attended both the weekly playgroups as well as several of their book of the month clubs. The staff was always so wonderful and did a fabulous job of engaging the children and finding crafts that were interesting and age appropriate.

Additionally, I myself attended several parenting courses offered through the family resource center in the evenings. FRC is a fantastic resource for any family and we are grateful of all the opportunities we were able to benefit from.

20/20/17

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Name:

CARA COLLINS

Address:

243 Maple St Somers CT 06071

Telephone #:

860.716.5396

Email Address:

CARACOLLINS72@hotmail.com

What does the Family Resource Center mean to you and your family?

My daughter Charlotte was born early. I have B23 come out weekly to work with her. She needs to be around other kids her age, we live in Somers and they do not offer any such program. I am thankful that Stafford offers a playgroup for kids her age. The staff is wonderful and has lots of things for kids to do.... arts + crafts, imaginary play, songs etc... I am happy to be a part of the Stafford Family Resource Center!

Collins 2/20/17

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Name: Kimberly Brady
Address: 5 Curtis St. Stafford Springs, CT 06076
Telephone #: 860-680-3004
Email Address: kab1225@icloud.com

What does the Family Resource Center mean to you and your family?

Dear Senator Guglielmo and/or Representative Vail,
The Stafford Family Resource Center has been an integral piece of
our lives. It has provided us with so many useful programs, friendships
and helpful ways to raise our families. It would be devastating not
to have these awesome opportunities available to our community.
It would deprive our children of learning about themselves and
others.

Deciding to go to Learn and Play group was the best decision
I could have made as a stay at home, first time mother. It
provided my son with tools he needed before starting school. He
learned communication skills, social skills and respect. Things that
would have been impossible for me to teach him at home without
the interaction of his peers and the guidance of the FRC staff.

The Stafford FRC program also gave me the opportunity to go back
to work and have trustworthy, affordable daycare. Stafford is very
lucky to have this available. It is a struggle to balance work and
home but with the FRC, it becomes easier.

We have met so many wonderful people and created
special friendships that still exist seven years later thanks to
the FRC. It has changed our lives for the better.
Please keep this special program alive. Thank you!
Kimberly Brady

01/20/17


February 3, 2017

Family Resource Center has been a blessing for our family. We are a two parent working household with no external family resources. We were amazed that FRC existed and we feel so blessed to have this opportunity to send our daughter to child care without transporting her to some other location. I have sought local childcare since we moved to the area in 2013. Due to the lack of quality childcare and work schedules it was extremely difficult for both of us to work. In fact, a majority of the last two years my husband was not able to find and keep work due to this scheduling conflict. Now, with FRC we are both able to enjoy careers while knowing we have high quality, safe, and cost-effective childcare for our daughter.

Our daughter loves going to FRC. In fact, we know she is going to miss it during summer unless we keep her busy in some other programs (of which we are focusing on now). We are extremely grateful for this program.

Sincerely,

Kariesa Jenyo

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Daniel Jenyo', written over a horizontal line.

Signing on behalf of Daniel Jenyo

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Name: Krista Lee
Address: 31 Chapin Avenue, Rocky Hill, CT 06067
Telephone #: (860) 634-3617
Email Address: Krista.m.lee21@gmail.com

What does the Family Resource Center mean to you and your family?

Over the past few years, the Stafford FRC program has helped me and my family immensely! The sliding scale fee was great for me as a single mom with 2 kids, on one income; no child support. It helped me and my son when he was young and needed speech therapy - more than just "Birth to 3" assistance. They also helped with helping with socialization before pre-K. Getting a 2 year old ready to be with a group of 15 more children is challenging and nerve wracking but FRC saved me from the chaos! All of the staff were easy to communicate with and helped me during so many difficult situations - like housing, child law, resources to help me through children's medical issues. This program is needed in all towns! It's a life saver! Please call me if you need more info!

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Name: Keegan & Alison Martin

Address: 125 Diamond Ledge Rd, Stafford Springs, CT 06076

Telephone #: 860-729-2932

Email Address: alisonmartin107@gmail.com

What does the Family Resource Center mean to you and your family?

We have been fortunate to have our son attend the School Age Child Care after school Program provided by FRC. Having this program available has allowed both of the parents in our home to maintain full time jobs to help support our family. Our son looks forward to FRC everyday. He gets so excited to show us the projects he has completed and proudly points out his art hanging on the "FRC wall" on the way out of school everyday. These projects are such a wonderful way to stretch his creativity with the guidance of the outstanding FRC teachers.

As we approach the end of the school year, we find the search for Summer care to be unsuccessful. Being a small community, after school and summer care options are limited so I know we have to start early. After calling all of the home daycares and 2 centers in town, we learned there are no openings and are now on long wait lists. We fear we will face the same problem come the new school year. If Summer FRC is available, we would be beyond thrilled!

We are lucky to have such amazing FRC teachers who help guide, nurture and strengthen the children's educational foundation. We are hopeful our daughter will be able to attend the program next year with her brother.

Thank you,
The Martin Family

01/20/17

February 12, 2017

RE: FRC PROGRAM

To Whom It May Concern:

It has been almost two years since my son Shane has been a part of the FRC family and he continues to ask to visit. He still misses the caring teachers and the fun activities that were awaiting him each day!

I remember signing my older son up when he was in first grade and Shane was just a tiny 3 year old. Both of the boys were nervous and I had no idea what to expect. It was probably one of the best decisions I could have made for my boys. They left a daycare center that was wild and unsettled and entered an environment of education and calm where they were encouraged to use their imaginations each day.

For four years we were part of the FRC program and it provided exactly what I needed to feel good about being a working mom. I was especially excited that they provided a summer program. Each day, during both the school year and the summer, the boys came home excited by another adventure they'd had. They were surrounded by their friends and a caring and knowledgeable staff.

Mrs Wert, Miss B and all the others went out of their way to make sure the kids were surrounded by the arts, had plenty of time for imaginative play and the calm of a movie when they were ready for a break. They got to play outside and run around and enjoy being kids. I can't tell you how important this is to families that have to work and depend on others to help watch our kids when we can't be there.

FRC is especially important to the families out there that can't afford a traditional daycare program. We were lucky to find a program that we could afford. It isn't only affordable, it really is the best choice. Between the fun theme weeks and all of the other great things they have to offer, plus a staff that truly cares about the children it was such a great experience for us.

The town of Stafford Springs and their families definitely benefit from this program. It was there for my family at a time when I wasn't sure how else I would have afforded daycare. It was an extra benefit to have the summer program. It provides consistency to the kids and affordability to families that have few other choices.

Coming from a daycare where it felt chaotic, it was always nice at the end of the day to pick up the boys in a calm, fun environment. That speaks volumes to what the teacher are able to accomplish.

I can't thank Mrs Wert and the entire staff enough for 4 wonderful years. If I can provide more information on our experience, please don't hesitate to contact me at 860.716.1123.

Sincerely-
Nancy Gilluly